

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.(currently amended)      A shielded PMR head ~~with a stitched write shield~~ comprising:

    a PMR head having a magnetic pole; ~~[[and]]~~

    a main write shield formed symmetrically above said magnetic pole, said main write shield having a leading edge and said pole having a trailing edge with a trailing edge width,  $W_{MPTE}$ , in ~~[[the]]~~ an ABS plane;

    a stitched write shield formed symmetrically on ~~[[the]]~~ a leading edge of said main write shield and symmetrically above said magnetic pole, ~~[[the]]~~ a trailing edge of said stitched write shield contacting ~~[[the]]~~ said leading edge of said main write shield and said stitched write shield having a thickness,  $T_{SWS}$ , and said stitched write shield having a leading edge with a leading edge width,  $W_{SWSLE}$ , in ~~[[the]]~~ said ABS plane and wherein the cross-sectional shapes of said stitched write shield and said magnetic pole in said ABS plane are truncated wedges with  $W_{SWSLE}$  greater than  $W_{MPTE}$ ;

    a write gap layer formed between ~~[[the]]~~ said leading edge of said stitched write shield and ~~[[the]]~~ said trailing edge of said magnetic pole.

2.(currently amended) The shielded PMR head of claim 1 wherein a design parameter,  $d$ , which is  $1/2(W_{SWSLE} - W_{MPTE})$ , is between approximately 0 and 0.1 microns.

3.(currently amended) The shielded PMR head of claim 1 wherein  $T_{SWS}$  is between approximately 0 and 1.0 microns.

4.(currently amended) The shielded PMR head of claim 1 wherein ~~the main pole, the main shield and the said~~ stitched shield ~~[[are]]~~ is formed of ~~the ferromagnetic materials~~ Fe, Co, CoNiFe, FeCo, NiFe, their composites, their oxygen or nitrogen doped composites, their amorphous forms or their multi-layered laminates, which laminates may include the insertion of non-magnetic layers.

5.(currently amended) The shielded PMR head of claim 1 wherein  $T_{SWS}$  is between approximately 0 and 1.0 microns,  $W_{SWSLE}$  is between approximately 0.1 and 0.22 microns and  $W_{MPTE}$  is between approximately 0.1 and 0.2 microns.

6.(currently amended) The shielded PMR head of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein the write gap layer is formed of ~~the insulating material~~ alumina, to a thickness between approximately 0.04 and 0.16 microns and a width between  $W_{SWSLE}$  and  $W_{MPTE}$ .